

of the first and last portions of this exposure would show. Although I admit an unfamiliarity with Holbcell's Grebe, if its methods of diving are at all similar to those of other grebes and water fowl as a whole, the erect head (if it is such) at the right side of this photograph appears odd. Except when the birds employ a gradual sinking motion the head is thrust forward and under when plunging and would not be in sight at the time, the rump was just disappearing.

While I realize that half-tone reproductions do not show all the details present in the photograph or better still, the negative, it seems that there has been a misinterpretation of the evidence presented in this picture. A much more logical interpretation would be that the so-called "ghost of the wings" is nothing more than spray caused by the bird's rapid plunge and backward thrust of the feet which, being highly reflective, would quite naturally appear light; the dark spots are shadows caused by the disturbance in the water; and the grebe may be anywhere from a few inches to several feet below the surface.—E. R. KALMBACH, *Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Concealing Postures of Grebes.**—On October 3, 1913, I was fishing for bass in the tidal streams at Gibbstown, N. J. At one spot there was a very shallow ditch some five or six feet in width, containing at the time possibly six or eight inches of water.

A Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) had been observed in the ditch about 11 A. M. and had made no special effort to get away with the exception of one or two half-hearted dives, the water of course not being deep enough. Early in the afternoon I walked down to the ditch with the hope of getting a closer view of the bird. I could see nothing of it as I gazed down upon the great mass of water lilies and other aquatic plant life which abounded in the ditch, but after a moment I became aware of an oblong body on the opposite edge of the ditch which up to that time had been taken for a partly submerged and mud-covered leaf but which was seen to be nervously moving at intervals and producing small circular wavelets on the water which in all other parts of the ditch was perfectly calm.

I partly turned with the intention of taking another step to get a better view, and was surprised to see a slender snake-like head a few inches in front of the object I had been watching, turn slowly about on the surface of the water and follow my movements. The facts were now self-evident, and the object I had been watching was nothing more than the glossy back of the grebe, which realizing the hopelessness of trying to escape by diving had resorted to this method of concealment, flattening itself out, on the surface of the water with its neck stretched out at full length. The wavelets were caused by a nervous movement of the feet beneath the water, doubtless getting ready for the dash which was about to follow.

I bent over in an effort to get a closer view, and the bird now evidently frantic with fear made an effort to sink itself breast first in the shallow stream. The breast and neck were forced beneath the surface, while the

posterior portion of the body including the feet and legs were at a sharp angle and completely free from the water. All this time the feet were paddling the air with terrific rapidity, and the bird seemed to have not the slightest conception that its body was not completely submerged although no effort was made to increase its supposed locomotion by using the wings.

Thinking that I might catch the bird I made one more step forward at the same time reaching for it with my hands, when it bounded from the water and with much flapping of wings and paddling of feet succeeded in covering the few yards down the ditch to the deep water of the sluice where it immediately dove and disappeared. At no time while making its progress down the ditch did the bird rise high enough for its wing tips and paddling feet to clear the water.

April 18, 1914, I found a pair of grebes in an absolutely unprotected stretch of water on Darby Creek, Delaware Co., Pa. The creek at this point is some fifteen or twenty feet in width and a low grassy meadow bordering it on both sides, and terminating at the water's edge in an abrupt bank some three to four feet in height. A few scattered clumps of alders grew in the water at the foot of the bank and at this season of the year with no leafy vegetation in evidence any living object, no matter how small, is plainly visible. The birds in question dove immediately upon being observed and one was never seen again. The other came to the surface after a few seconds, a considerable distance up the creek, but immediately dove again and disappeared. The bird was sighted regularly every morning following and just as regularly disappeared. On the morning of the twenty-third with the aid of the glass it was observed sitting quietly on the surface of the water about a quarter of a mile up the creek.

An hour later while again passing this spot I decided to take another look at the bird and a sharp lookout was kept for it, but absolutely no trace of it was found. The surface of the water lay like a mirror. Walking slowly along the bank I scanned the edges of the stream on both sides, but could see nothing resembling a living object, and I was about to leave the spot when my attention was attracted by an oblong object at the foot of a clump of alders directly opposite, and my first thought was that the object was the carapace of a turtle, but as it was rather early in the season for turtles I trained my glasses upon the object and was amazed to discover that it was the grebe. There at the foot of the alders, stretched full length and flattened out upon the surface of the water in exactly the manner of the Gibbstown bird, its bill pointed directly towards me, and although no movement of the head was in evidence it was plain to be seen that the bird was watching my every movement.

I now called the attention of a friend who was with me to the fact that the object before us was the bird for which we had been searching, and although he could see the oblong object plainly enough, he could not outline the bird. I took another step towards the edge of the bank and as I did so there departed from the sides of the bird those same small circular

wavelets and I realized that the bird was moving its feet preparatory to the dive. The next instant as my friend approached, the bird slipped quietly from the alders and disappeared head first beneath the surface. The actions of the two birds were so absolutely alike that I think they must constitute a regular practice on the part of these Grebes.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Pa.*

**Herring Gulls at Sea.**—On page 182 of 'The Auk,' Dr. Strong says, "Herring Gulls do not wander far from land relatively, and they are probably usually within a reasonable distance from fresh water."

On February 8-16, I was on a voyage from New York to Madeira. As we left the American coast, a flock of about forty Herring Gulls accompanied us.

They decreased in number, gradually, and, as their numbers decreased, they fell further behind. Herring Gulls were identified for fully half the distance to Madeira, but on the sixteenth when the birds came close to the ship they were found to be yellow-legged gulls which had doubtless come out from the islands.—ROBERT BARBOUR.

**Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) on Fresh Pond, Cambridge, Mass.**—Mr. Brewster in his "Birds of the Cambridge Region" records an occurrence of a Glaucous Gull on Fresh Pond in the '*hutchinsii*' plumage on November 29, 1899. I am able to furnish a second record. On March 2, 1914, in the middle of the forenoon one appeared among the Herring Gulls which were coming in from Boston Harbor to rest and bathe. It was an entirely white bird and much larger than the Herring Gulls. Ice covered most of the surface of the pond, but about an open area reaching to the shore, where the water is received by an entrance pipe, was a collection of Black Ducks and Herring Gulls with a pair of Golden-eyes, a Mallard Drake, and three Great Black-backed Gulls. Other Herring Gulls were arriving, and with a squad of these came the Glaucous Gull. It remained to bathe, successively took two or three flights about, but returned after each flight to the open water or to the edge of the ice, where were gathered the Black Ducks. Its position among these at times made the bird very striking in its complete whiteness. It was still present when an hour later I came away. The next day again this Glaucous Gull was present, arriving with Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls at 11.20 A. M., but the following day it was absent, and it was not seen again.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) at Boston, Mass.**—On October 24, 1913, two young male European Widgeon appeared on Jamaica Pond. When first seen, they were very shy and swam restlessly about in close companionship, occasionally giving the characteristic call of the species, consisting of two notes, "*Whée-yoü.*" They were still present the following day, and were afterwards viewed from time to time during